

Calvary Chapel Cajon

Women's Bible Studies

Mark 12

Lesson 11

Mark 12 begins with a parable about an owner of a vineyard coming to collect what was due to him. The chapter ends with Jesus calling attention to the generous giving of a poor widow. Between these two stories, we see the religious rulers challenging Jesus with questions that have little significance. Yet Jesus' answers directed them to the spiritual. Too often we withhold from God; too often we live asking the wrong questions. May this chapter challenge you to live beyond and above the temporal.

DAY ONE: Read Mark 12

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. How would you title this chapter? Record your title on the **Chapter Titles Chart**.

3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbols**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, Spirit, hear(d), kingdom of God, and any references to religious leaders

New to this lesson: *love and true/truth*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Mark 12. Remember, as you mark the key words *Jesus, God* and the religious leaders, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

4. Scan the many references to Jesus in this chapter. List five things revealed about Him.

5. The contrasting word *but* is used ten times in Mark 12. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.

DAY TWO: Read Mark 12:1-12

1. Mark 12 is a continuation of Jesus' conversation with the religious rulers. Jesus *began to speak to them in parables*. Read Mark 4:11,12 and record Jesus' purpose in teaching *parables*.

2. Jesus taught a parable about a *man who planted a vineyard*. Using Mark 12:1-8, summarize this parable.

3. What does Mark 12:9 say the *owner of the vineyard will do*?

4. After telling the parable, Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22,23. Read these verses along with the three following verses (24-26). Record the words written in verses 25,26.
 - a. Recall from last week's lesson, the events of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem by recording the words of the people from Matthew 21:9. Note: the word *Hosanna* means "save now". The words of the people were prophesied in Psalm 118. What message do you think Jesus was giving the religious rulers in this parable?

5. How did the religious rulers respond when they realized Jesus was aiming the parable at them? Mark 12:12

6. What lesson did you glean from this parable for yourself?

DAY THREE: Read Mark 12:13-27

1. Mark 12:13 begins a time when the *Pharisees and Herodians* take their best shots at Jesus in an effort to catch Him in His words (Mark 12:13). Before questioning Jesus, what did they say to Him in verse 14?
 - a. The phrase *You do not regard the person of men* refers to the fact that God does not treat one person below or above another. Why do you think the religious leaders complimented Jesus on His integrity and commitment to the truth before they asked their "trick" question?

2. According to Mark 12:14,15, what question did they ask Jesus?
 - a. After Jesus told them to bring to Him a *denarius* (a coin representing approximately a day's wage), what question did He ask them?
 - 1.) Their answer: *Caesar's*. What was Jesus' answer?

 - b. Consider your life. What belongs to *Caesar* (the government)?
 - 1.) What belongs to God?

 - 2.) Personal challenge: Who do you "short" the most?

3. Next, the Sadducees, *who say there is no resurrection*, set before Jesus this scenario. There were seven brothers. The first had a wife and left no offspring. The second married her, died, and left no offspring. The third likewise. All seven married her, all leaving no offspring. Last of all the woman died also. Before they told this story, they presented a law of Moses. What was it?
 - a. What question did they ask Jesus? verse 23

 - b. Jesus' answer began with a statement that they were *mistaken*. Why were they *mistaken*?
 - 1.) How does *not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God* cause us to have not only wrong answers, but wrong questions?

4. Summarize Jesus' answer from Mark 12:25-27.
 - a. What truth did Jesus insert here *concerning the dead* that would challenge the Sadducees belief that *there is no resurrection*?

DAY FOUR: Read Mark 12:28-34

1. *One of the scribes came ... perceiving He had answered them well.* What did He ask Jesus?
 - a. What did Jesus answer?

2. Consider the Ten Commandments. How do these two commandments consolidate the ten?
 - a. What does it mean to *love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength*?

 - b. What example do we have for *loving*?
 - 1.) List a few ways that Jesus *loves*.

 - c. The New Testament challenges the believer that if we are truly obeying the first command to love God, we will also be fulfilling the second commandment to love others. What do the following Scriptures say about this?

Romans 13:8

1 John 4:21

3. The scribe agreed with Jesus' answer. What did he say loving God and others is *more than*?
verse 33
 - a. God's greatest commandments center around *love*. Why must *love* be the impetus behind all we do?

DAY FIVE: Read Mark 12:35-44

1. Mark 12:34 ends with the statement, *But after that no one dared question Him*. However, Jesus had some questions of His own. The New Living Translation records Jesus' asking, *Why do the teachers of religious law claim that the Messiah will be the son of David* (v. 35)? This question would put before them the question which stumbles Jews to this day. The Messiah would come from David. That would make Him human. David called Him *Lord*, signifying His deity. So, the real question was – How can the Messiah be both human and God? We have no record of anyone attempting to answer Jesus' question. What was the reaction of the *common people*? verse 37
 - a. Matthew's parallel account can be found in Matthew 22:41-46. What questions does Matthew tell us Jesus asked in verse 42?
 - 1.) Why is the answer to this question more important than the questions the religious leaders asked Jesus?
 - 2.) What objections to Jesus' identity do people raise today?
 - 3.) What is important for people to know about Jesus?
 - a.) Why?
2. Jesus then warned the people about the *scribes*. Using Mark 12:38-40, list their behavior.
 - a. Rather than receiving *greetings, best seats and places*, what is awaiting the *scribes*?
 - 1.) How can this be a warning to us?
3. Mark 12 ends with Jesus sitting *opposite the treasury* in the temple. What did He see?
 - a. When Jesus *called the disciples to Himself*, what did He say to them about the *poor widow*?
 - 1.) In the world's thinking, the more we give, the better. Why is God's perception different?

DAY SIX: Review Mark 12

1. Consider the parable of the man who planted a vineyard. The man sent his messengers to collect *some of the fruit of the vineyard*. How does this challenge you to give God what is due to Him?
2. ... *Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's...* (Mark 12:17). Which is more difficult for you: letting go of what won't last or giving your life to God? Why?
3. Consider Jesus' answers to the questions asked of Him. In each situation, list the part of His answer that redirected them to the spiritual.
4. The poor widow *gave out of her poverty*. Why do you think God wants us to give sacrificially?
5. What lesson did you learn from Jesus' responses that you can apply to your responses when challenged by unbelievers?

*For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford
but far more. And they did it of their own free will.*

- 2 Corinthians 8:3 NLT

Chapter Twelve

¹Then He began to speak to them in parables: *"A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a place for the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. ²Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the vinedressers. ³And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴Again he sent them another servant, and at him they threw stones, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. ⁵And again he sent another, and him they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some. ⁶Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, 'They will respect my son.'* ⁷*But those vinedressers said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.'* ⁸*So they took him and killed him and cast him out of the vineyard. ⁹Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰Have you not even read this Scripture: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ¹¹This was the LORD'S doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes!'" ¹²And they sought to lay hands on Him, but feared the multitude, for they knew He had spoken the parable against them. So they left Him and went away.*

¹³Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words. ¹⁴When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? ¹⁵Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, *"Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it."* ¹⁶So they brought it. And He said to them, *"Whose image and inscription is this?"* They said to Him, "Caesar's." ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said to them, *"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."* And they marveled at Him. ¹⁸Then some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him; and they asked Him, saying: ¹⁹"Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man's brother dies, and leaves his wife behind, and leaves no children, his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁰Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife; and dying, he left no offspring. ²¹And the second took her, and he died; nor did he leave any offspring. And the third likewise. ²²So the seven had her and left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also. ²³Therefore, in the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife." ²⁴Jesus answered and said to them, *"Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? ²⁷He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken."* ²⁸Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the

first commandment of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered him, "*The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. ³⁰And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. ³¹And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.*" ³²So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. ³³And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "*You are not far from the kingdom of God.*" But after that no one dared question Him. ³⁵Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, "*How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? ³⁶For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" ³⁷Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?"* And the common people heard Him gladly. ³⁸Then He said to them in His teaching, "*Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, ³⁹the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, ⁴⁰who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.*" ⁴¹Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. ⁴²Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "*Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.*"